

# The Heart Line: Taking the Pulse

Covering Volunteerism and Service Throughout Kentucky

Shannon L. Ramsey, Editor

January-February 2012 Edition

## In This Edition

2011 Governor's Volunteer Awards

What Makes a Winning Nomination?

2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Community Organization Spotlight: Frazier Rehab Institute

Do You Have a Job Posting to Share?

Disabilities Corner: Service Project Collaboration

## Article Submission

We'd love to have an article about your program or organization.

Please email [Shannon Ramsey](mailto:Shannon.Ramsey@kccvs.org) to learn more about submitting an article for the newsletter.

## Newsletter Archives

Download the print version of this newsletter and past editions on the [KCCVS Newsletter](#) page on our website.



## Welcome

Welcome to the January-February 2012 edition of the Heart Line newsletter, a publication by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS).

Everyone at the KCCVS hopes that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. As always, we're staying busy at the KCCVS office, as are the Kentucky AmeriCorps members across the Commonwealth. In this edition of the newsletter, you can learn more about the Governor's Volunteer Awards, check out photos from the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, read a spotlight article on Frazier Rehab Institute and find out about a service project that brought together conference attendees.

Also, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our community service programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Governor's Volunteer Awards, the Volunteer Insurance Program or the Volunteer Recognition Program.

## 2011 Governor's Volunteer Awards



### Now seeking nominations!

Once again, it's time to nominate an award-worthy volunteer or volunteer group for a 2011 Governor's Award for Volunteerism and Service.

The nomination form, category criteria, general information and helpful resources are on the [KCCVS website](#).

Nomination packets must be received via email or postmarked by **Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012**. For more information, call Shannon Ramsey at (800) 239-7404, ext. 4115.

## What Makes a Winning Nomination?

Governor's Volunteer Awards nomination time is here again, and that got me thinking: What makes a winning nomination? What tips would I offer to someone writing a nomination?

*Continued on page 2*

First, second and third: follow the directions! If the form calls for one page, do not write two. If the form asks for you to complete a checklist at the end to make sure everything is there, do it. If the form says one attachment, well, you get the picture....

Next, put yourself in the role of a judge. If you were given 15 nominations for a certain category, what would stand out to you? A page of statistics or list of accomplishments makes it hard to relate a person's character and motivations. Numbers are necessary, but only in the context of the entire picture. Let the person you are writing about come to life. Tell a compelling story. Do not write something generic such as "He/she is so wonderful there are not enough words to express all he/she does." That doesn't provide any useful information. Be very specific about what the person or group has done. Try to make the judges feel what you feel about your nominee. Try to give an insight to the character or a glimpse of the "something special" that makes this person tick. Your role as nominator is to bring the person to life on the page – and I know that's a tall order.

Please keep in mind that judges are people! Like all of us, they are doing their best, using what information is given to them – and only that – to choose the person or group to win an award. Each Governor's Volunteer Awards nomination is read by three independent judges. They follow a judging worksheet – which you can view on the KCCVS website – and look for that little something extra that may set one nominee above the others. Don't you think that a volunteer that is worth an award is worth an award-winning nomination?

Best of luck,



Eileen Cackowski  
KCCVS Executive Director

*"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together."*

~ Vesta M. Kelly



## 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service



The 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service was **Jan. 16**. Kentucky AmeriCorps members across the Commonwealth participated in a variety of activities and projects to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Check out [photos](#) from the MLK Day of Service on the KCCVS Facebook page.

Watch the [video](#) of John Gomperts, director of AmeriCorps with the Corporation for National and Community Service, speaking about Martin Luther King Day.



Learn more about the national observance at [MLKDay.gov](http://MLKDay.gov).

## Community Organization Spotlight: Frazier Rehab Institute

### Kentucky is home to world-class rehab care and spinal cord research

By Emily Coons

Kentucky is home to many great things, including world-class care in rehabilitation thanks to the work of the skilled care providers, researchers and volunteers at Frazier Rehab Institute in Louisville who provide extensive therapy across a number of specialties for inpatient and outpatient rehab needs.

*Continued on page 3*



Extensive specialty rehab programs, highly skilled therapists, state-of-the-art facilities and innovative therapeutic techniques have earned national recognition for Frazier Rehab Institute, making it one of the top rehab institutions in the region.

Frazier Rehab also serves as a hub of groundbreaking research in the field of spinal cord injury in collaboration with the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky. Frazier Rehab is the lead center in the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation NeuroRecovery Network, which is developing and expanding access to activity-based therapies, resulting in improved health, quality of life and function.

Recently the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) of the U.S. Department of Education awarded researchers at Frazier and the University of Louisville \$2.2 million to establish a Spinal Cord Injury Model System. The grant is one of 14 in the United States awarded.

With the NIDRR grant, UofL and Frazier Rehab will operate the Frazier Rehab and Neuroscience Spinal Cord Injury Model System (FRNSCIMS) serving the states of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee. The FRNSCIMS will build upon and advance the high quality, comprehensive rehabilitative care to individuals with spinal cord injury and be the center of new research in which findings are rapidly translated into clinical and rehabilitation practice.

“The model system is a basic framework for building a research network that can capitalize on the expertise of our current faculty,” said Daniel E. Graves, Ph.D., who joined UofL and Frazier Rehab as principal investigator on the grant. It also will enable us to draw in more scientists to work with us, ultimately bettering the lives of people with spinal cord injury.”

The FRNSCIMS will broaden the current scope of care provided by Frazier Rehab and UofL by addressing the comprehensive rehabilitative and reintegration needs of patients with spinal cord injury. The active research program will move evidence-based approaches to treating spinal cord injury to the clinical setting.



“The relationship between the University of Louisville, Frazier Rehab and Jewish Hospital & St. Mary’s HealthCare has resulted in a better quality of life for patients with spinal cord injuries, and this new funding will help us to continue this groundbreaking work,” said David Laird, president/CEO, Jewish Hospital and St. Mary’s HealthCare. “Together, we can make new discoveries and implement those discoveries in our care for patients. The benefits of that are invaluable.”

## Do You Have a Job Posting to Share?



In the May-June 2011 edition of the newsletter, the KCCVS posted a note that we would help share job opportunities in the nonprofit field, and we asked interested individuals to join an email distribution list. Our list has grown to more than 75 individuals, but we haven’t received notice of very many job opportunities to share.

If you are part of a nonprofit organization and would like to share a job opportunity with our distribution list members, please send the announcement to [Shannon Ramsey](#).

If you are interested in receiving copies of such notices, please send an email to [KCCVS](#) with “job opportunities” in the subject line and we will add your name to the distribution list.



## Disabilities Corner: Service Project Collaboration

By Lanny Taulbee, KCCVS Disabilities Coordinator



In October 2011, the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) held its 14th Annual Conference and Expo at the Louisville Marriott Downtown Hotel. With nearly 400 attendees and 46 interactive educational sessions over four days, the event was amazing. The USBLN is the national disability organization that serves as the collective voice of more than 60 Business Leadership Network affiliates across North America, representing more than 5,000 employers.

As part of the conference activities, the USBLN conducted a service project to support a local veterans program, the Kentucky Homeless Veterans Transition Program that reintegrates homeless veterans transitioning back into society. The collaboration between National Service to Employment Project (NextSTEP) and the KCCVS was a huge success.

Conference attendees assembled 30 to 35 “kitchen start-up kits” during the two-hour event with the assistance of participating AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps VISTA, USBLN Student Advisory Council members and conference attendees. These start-up packages provide veterans with the basic kitchen supplies they need to get settled into new transitional housing. The service project contributed to the success of the Homeless Veterans Transition Program located at the Leestown Campus of the Lexington VA Medical Center, in partnership with the Volunteers of America.

Service project participants developed a basic understanding of national service programs. They also learned that individuals with disabilities could benefit from participating in national service and community volunteerism because those opportunities allow all individuals to contribute to their community while developing job skills, exposure to different types of careers and networks to help in their later job search. In addition to the service project, the other goal of this activity was to orient conference attendees to AmeriCorps and national service and to think about how national service and volunteerism can be a resource to individuals with disabilities as they prepare for employment.

The USBLN recognizes and supports best practices in hiring and advancing employees with disabilities, marketing to consumers with disabilities, and encourages contracting with vendors with disabilities through the development and certification of disability-owned businesses. USBLN affiliates are business organizations headed by a lead employer who exemplifies these practices and shares experiences with other members – employers -- within the state or region. These activities include career fairs, disability mentoring and internship programs, and training programs including disability business etiquette, accommodation, and other disability issues deemed significant to employers. Businesses join USBLN affiliates to learn how to expand their diversity recruiting efforts to include people with disabilities -- not as a social model but as a business case to recruit talent and better serve their customers. USBLN successes serve the workplace, marketplace, supplier chain and the economy.

Learn more about [NextSTEP](#) and [USBLN](#) online.

Check out more [photos](#) of the service project on the KCCVS Facebook page.



**Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service**

275 E. Main St., Mail Stop 3W-E, Frankfort, KY 40621

(800) 239-7404

[kccvs@ky.gov](mailto:kccvs@ky.gov)

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcvs/kccvs/>

